

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0771

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11339

FOLNG SENT NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA MADRAS FM BOMBAY
DTD 21 AUG.

QUOTE: BOMBAY 2117

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IN

SUBJ: BLITZ ON BANGLADESH COUP

1. AS ANTICIPATED BLITZ, WHICH SEEMINGLY OPERATES WITHOUT
HINDERANCE OF SPONSORSHIP,GIVES US - "A SATANIC POWER" - A
BROADSIDE ON BANGLADESH C THIS WEEK'S ISSUE WHICH WENT ON THE
NEWSSTANDS IN BOMBAY TODAY. LEAD FEATURE, HOWEVER, IS KARANJIA'S
INTERVIEW WITH PM WHICH HE APPARENTLY HAD WHILE IN DELHI THIS
PAST WEEKEND WHICH TREATED SEPTTEL.

2. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "A GRIM WARNING", BLITZ STATES THAT
WITH THE SHOCK OF MUJIB'S "MURDER" THE REALISATION MUST COME
"THAT HERE, AGAIN, THERE OBVIOUSLY IS A DARK, SINISTER,
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UNSETTLING FORCE, A SATANIC POWER COMMITTED TO A POLICY OF

'DESTABILIZING' ANY REGIME ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WHICH IT DOES NOT LIKE." GOES ON RECALL BLITZ' WARNING IN ITS MAY 31 ISSUE "THAT U.S. PLOTTING A 'GRAND DESIGN' AGAINST INDIA, BANGLADESH AND SRI LANKA, AND THAT THESE THREE WERE MARKED OUT AS THE NEXT TARGETS OF THE NOTORIOUS CIA." (BOMBAY 1289). SAYING THAT US ROUTED IN INDO CHINA, "THIS NEO-COLONIAL JUGGERNAUT HAS MOVED THE CENTRE OF ITS KILL ONLY A STEPS WESTWARD. DIEGO GARCIA...IS LIKE A NUCLEAR DAGGER POINTED AT THE LITTORAL STATES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN WHERE AMERICA'S AGENTS ARE BUSY IN THEIR TASK OF PERSUASIVE SUBVERSION." IN REFERRING TO "HENRY KISSINGER'S MINATORY WARNINGS TO LITTLE PORTUGAL", BLITZ STATES THAT "EVEN IN THE BANGLADESH EVENTS, THE WORKINGS OF THE SAME FIENDISH MIND AND UNSUBTLE HAND ARE BARELY CONCEALED." GOES ON TO REFER TO BHUTTO'S "INDECENT HASTE" IN RECOGNIZING THE NEW REGIME AND TO NOTE THAT THE VOA FIRST ANNOUNCED THE NEWS. CONCLUDES THAT THE EVENTS IN BANGLADESH "PROVIDE THE MOST TELLING POST FACTO JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROCLAMATION OF THE EMERGENCY IN INDIA" AND THAT "INDIA HAS BEEN SAVED BY THE GUTS, CAPACITY AND COURAGEOUS WILLINGNESS OF THE PRIME MINISTER TO INCUR THE ODIUM OF THE LIBERALS, THE CONSERVATIVES, THE UNWARY AND THE UNINFORMED."

3. BLITZ CARRIES DELHI BUREAU STORY HEADLINED "MUJIB'S MURDER IS EVIDENCE OF...A CHILE AT OUR DOORSTEP." ARTICLE DRAWS ON MONDAY'S AFRO-ASIAN PEACE AND SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION MEETING IN DELHI AND QUOTES GUPTA AS SAYING THAT MUJIB HAD BEEN KILLED BY "REACTIONARY FORCES BACKED BY THE USA AND CIA"... REFERS TO CHANDRA'S WARNING TO MUJIB THAT "A LARGE NUMBER OF CIA AGENTS WERE OPERATING IN BANGLADESH UNDER COVER OF AID-GIVING SOCIETIES" AND THAT MUJIB HAD INDICATED HIS AWARENESS OF THIS. BLITZ INTERJECTS TO STATE "PROBABLY HE WAS REFERRING TO THE FORMER US COUNSELOR AND COVERT CIA OPERATOR, PETER BURLEIGH, IN CALCUTTA, WHO HAD JUST THEN BEEN SHIFTED TO DACCA." ARTICLE GOES ON POINT OUT THAT CPI M.P. BHUPESH GUPTA "WAS CERTAINLY EXPRESSING THE FEELING IN POLITICAL CIRCLES - AND NOT ONLY IN POLITICAL CIRCLES - WHEN HE ACCUSED THE CIA OF MURDER AND DESTABILIZATION IN SONAR BANGLA". NOTES THAT "IT IS NOT FORTUITOUS THAT THE FIRST MESSAGE ABOUT THE BLOODY EVENTS IN DACCA CAME FROM WASHINGTON" AND THAT "THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNEW ALMOST IN NO TIME THAT THE BLOODY MISSION HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN ACCOMPLISHED." ADDS THAT THE FIRST MESSAGE RECEIVED SYDNEY WAS FROM AP WHICH QUOTED DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES IN DELHI AS ITS SOURCE. THE AP CORRESPONDENT "WAS ONLY QUOTING HIS OWN EMBASSY, THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, IN THE CAPITAL." GOES ON SAY THAT "POLICY MAKERS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN AND BUDDHIST REPUBLIC OF CHINA, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE MAFIA REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES, SEEM TO BE SURE THAT THE PRESENT BANGLADESH CABINET IS A FACADE AND A STOP-GAP WHICH WILL GIVE WAY TO

THE ONE SUITED TO ITS NEWLY DISCOVERED GENIUS." CONCLUDES BY REFERRING AGAIN TO WARNING IN MAY 31 BLITZ ISSUE, ADDING THAT "UNCLE SAM CANNOT BUT DISCOVER PASTURES NEW IN SOUTH ASIA. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT RICHARD HELMS, FORMER DIRECTOR OF CIA, HAS SUDDENLY DEVELOPED AN ARTISTIC TASTE FOR THE TAJ MATYL AND OTHER MONUMENTS ON THE SUB-CONTINENT. THEY HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BANGLADESH. TROUBLE IS BREWING IN SRI LANKA. THE HINFIIGHT VIEW OF THE PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY IN INDIA IS THAT MRS GANDHI HAS FORESTALLED IT HERE."

4. IN AN INSERT BOX ON SAME PAGE AS FOREGOING ARTICLE ENTITLED "DAGGER BEHIND THE COUP", THERE IS A "DACCA" ITEM STATING THAT "EVENTYAS THEY NOW UNFURL THEMSELVES CLEARLY REVEAL THE HAND OFIP FOREIGN POWER I THE DASTARDLY COUP IN BANGLADESH. THE INSTRUMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE PLOT WAS MAJOR DALIM...PICKED BY THE FOREIGN AGENCY TO ORGANIZE AND EXECUTE THE COUP."

5. ON LAST PAGE, BLITZ CARRIES ABBAS ARTICLE "IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED HERE...THE COUP IN BANGLADESH*" AFTER ASKING WHETHER COUP ASSISTED BY PAKISTAN, ABBAS ASKS "WAS ANY OTHER FOREIGN POWER INVOLVED IN THE COUP? WERE THE 'DESTABILISATION' EXPERTS OF THE CIA AT WORK IN BANGLADESH?" GOES ON STATE THAT COUP SHOULD BE A WARNING TO INDIA AND INDIANS ADDING THAT "IF OUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT, IT ALMOST DID HAPIIN HERE. BUT FOR THE TIMELY DEMOCRATIC ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER... THE RSS WAS TO BE THE SWORD-ARM OF THE COUP. THE EX-MAHARAJAHS WERE TO SUPPLY THE MONEY AND THE TRANSMITTERS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH 'FRIENDLY' FORE JN COUNTRIES..."

6. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE HEADLINED "JANATA FRONT ABETS CIA'S ANTI-NATIONAL OPERATIONS", BLITZ STATES THAT "THE CIA HAS STEPPED UP ITS COVERT ACTIVITIES IN GUJARAT TO STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-INDIRA CONFIDENTIAL

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BASE THERE, TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF A NON-CONGRESS GOVERNMENT IN POWER. THIS GRIM FOREBODING IS NO FIGMENT OF IMAGINATION MC POLITICAL OBSERVERS, BUT AN UGLY 'FACT' CORROBORATED BY FAST-MOVING EVENTS." CONCLUDES ARTICLE BY CALLING FOR DISMISSAL JANATA FRONT GOVERNMENT AND PRESIDENT'S RULE REIMPOSED "IF THE EMERGENCY AND ITS EFFECTSHTRE TO TAKE CONCRETE SHAPE."

7. COMMENRNOILLUSIONS S TO TE LIKELIHOOD OF GOI APPLYING CENSORSHIP TO BLITZ OR CURBING KARANJIA. HIS ACCESS TO AND LINKS WITH KEY CONGRESS LEADERS ARE GILT-EDGED AND INCLUDE PM AS REFLECTED BY HIS INTERVIEW WITH HER CARRIED IN THE SAME ISSUE. HIS TIES WITH RAJNI PATEL ARE CLOSE. HE REFLECTS PRETTY ACCURATELY THINKING IN HIGHEFH PLACES IN HIS PUBLICATION AND MAKES IT A POINT TO DO SO. IT IS

NOT ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO TRY AND GLOSS OVER WHAT BLITZ SAYS AS
REPRESENTING SOMETHING EXTREME, VULGAR AND OF NO CONSEQUENCE.
BLITZ IS WIDELY READ AND IN HIGH PLACES AND POLITICIANS AND
BUSINESSMEN FOR MOST PART FEAR KARANJIA AND ARE LOATHE TO
CROSS SWORDS WITH HIM GIVEN HIS POWER AND INFLUENCE. THEY
GENERALLY SEEK TO CURRY HIS FAVOR OR BUY HIM OFF. THE SHAH
OBVIOUSLY THINKS WELL ENOUGH OF HIM TO USE HIM AS A VETZCLE IN
INDIA.
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